

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: GENOA CALM AFTER MORO'S ASSASSINATION

REF: ROME 8511; GENOA 0264

SUMMARY: AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM RESIGNATION CONTINUES TO REIGN IN GENOA TWO DAYS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF MORO'S BODY IN ROME. THERE WERE TWO SMALL, ORDERLY, "SPONTANEOUS" DEMONSTRATIONS OF "SOLIDARITY" IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 9, FOLLOWED YESTERDAY BY A POORLY OBEYED TWO HOUR "GENERAL STRIKE". QUIET RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC CEREMONIES, COMMEMORATING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER, CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE CITY AND IN NEARBY TOWNS. THESE HAVE BEEN THE ONLY SIGNS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAGEDY IN ROME. THE FEW LOCAL LEADERS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH SINCE THE TRAGEDY ARE GLOOMY AND PREPARED FOR THE WORST, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN ROME. END SUMMARY

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1. THE CALM REACTION WHICH WE DESCRIBED IN GENOA REFTHELSS THAN TWO HOURS AFTER THE NEWS OF MORO'S ASSASSINATION BROKE, CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN GENOA. FRANKLY, WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF ANY LARGE DEMONSTRATION OR OTHER IMPOSING, VISIBLE SIGN OF POPULAR MOURNING. THIS BECAUSE THE AGONY HAD GONE ON TOO LONG AND MOST HAD BEEN

FULLY CONDITIONED TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE ASSASSINATION OF MORO AT THE HANDS OF THE RED BRIGADES. MOREOVER, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SIMPLY APPEAR INCAPABLE AND/OR UNWILLING TO MOUNT THE SORT OF ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS TO MARK OR EXPLOIT A PARTICULAR INCIDENT OR EVENT IN WHICH THE COMMUNIST EXCEL. THE COMMUNISTS, FOR THEIR PART, ARE NOT ABOUT TO LEND A HAND TO THEM ON THE EVE OF A LOCAL ELECTORAL TEST WHICH MANY BELIEVE WILL REDOUND TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNISTS.

2. WE HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REACH MANY LOCAL LEADERS TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF MORO'S DEATH ON THE LOCAL AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL SCENE. MOST ARE ENGAGED IN CEREMONIES AND MEETINGS CONNECTED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OR WITH ELECTIONEERING. THOSE THAT WE HAVE CONTACTED (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL SECRETARY ANGELO SIBILLA, PREFECT FRANZE, LABOR LEADER CAMPORA (CISL) AND SOCIALIST REGIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT LANDI) DO NOT OFFER MUCH IN THE WAY OF SOLID ANALYSES OR PREDICTIONS, EXCEPT THE VAGUE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW THE WORST CAN BE AVOIDED. REFLECTING THE VIEWS AND PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE LEFTIST PRESS, OUR SOCIALIST AND LABOR SOURCES ARE CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBLE EXPLOSION OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS AMONG THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES WHICH COULD THREATEN THE LIFE OF THE ANDREOTTI CABINET.

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COMMENT: THE SUDDEN RESIGNATION OF INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE KEY FACTOR IN THE GLOOMY MOOD HEREABOUTS REGARDING THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOCAL LEFT IS CONCERNED THAT MORO'S "MARTYRDOM" MAY INDEED WIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS A LARGE SYMPATHY VOTE IN THE SCATTERED LOCAL ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LIGURIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY ON MAY 14-15. IF THAT HAPPENED, OF COURSE, MANY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO GO FOR ALL THE MARBLES IN A NATIONAL TEST. FRANKLY, IF THERE IS A LARGE ELECTORAL GROUND SWELL FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CAUSED BY MORO'S ASSASSINATION IT IS CERTAINLY WELL HIDDEN. IT MAY BE MORE VISIBLE IN THE SMALLER TOWNS AND IN THE RURAL MOUNTAIN VILLAGES, BUT NOT HERE IN GENOA. I AM REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THE FEW ELECTORAL TESTS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT.DISCIUULLO

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